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THE PUMPKIN SITE (38GR226)

By Tommy Charles

The "Pumpkin" site, recorded as archaeological site 38GR226 and located in the northern part of Greenville County, South Carolina, has a long history of occupation by various groups of prehistoric American Indians. Artifactual evidence indicates human occupation of this site began as early as 7,500 BC and continued periodically until AD 500 and perhaps later. The single most identifiable cultural component, and the one of greatest research interest for the time being, is the Connestee culture that occurred between AD 200-600.

Archaeological research at "Pumpkin" is being conducted by the SCIAA working jointly with volunteers from the Greenville area and with assistance from the SCIAA/Savannah River Archaeological Research Program archaeologists. Financing for the project is provided by local citizens through the Archaeological Research Trust.

Exploration of the "Pumpkin" site is in its infancy, having begun in November of 1994 with a single test excavation. This first excavation revealed a dark organically stained midden overlying red clay sub-soil. A pit feature—extending down into the red clay sub-soil, was exposed in the east wall of the test unit. Excavation of the pit feature was rewarding beyond expectations. Artifacts recovered were a steatite (soapstone) elbow pipe, small sheets of mica, fire-cracked rocks, Connestee pottery and charcoal. Carbon removed from the pipe bowl and loose charcoal recovered from the pit feature's fill were Carbon 14 dated at AD 440 for the pipe and AD 470 for the loose charcoal—dates consistent with those

for Connestee pottery. These findings are important in the field of archaeology as carbon dates for the Connestee are not common. I have not extensively searched the records, but I think this is only the second Connestee carbon 14 date for South Carolina and certainly the first from a pipe.

Encouraged by findings in the initial test excavation, a series of shovel tests were excavated over the entire site in January-February 1995. These test excavations revealed an extensive array of sub-surface features extending into the red clay sub-soil. Features appearing to be post molds indicated a possible presence of prehistoric structures.

To determine the presence or absence of prehistoric structures, an area measuring approximately 22 X 90 meters was stripped of its plow-damaged midden to reveal the sub-soil. This procedure uncovered approximately 500 features including numerous post molds and a number of large pits; all were subsequently plotted using a surveyors transit. Drawing of the site map is in progress, and hopefully it will reveal patterns of houses constructed by the Connestee. Excavation of the pit features is ongoing. Analysis of recovered materials has not begun. Work on the "Pumpkin" site will continue as time, money and local interest dictate.

I would like to thank all donors who contributed to this important archaeological project.

Persons interested in participating with the excavation of 38GR226 and/or extending financial support may make inquiries to the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, Columbia, SC 29208 (803) 777-8170.

SCIAA EVENTS AT ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK (Cont.)

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF PEARL HARBOR

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy launched a surprise attack on the US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Within an hour, the aircraft and submarines of the IJN had crippled the Pacific fleet as smoke and flames rose from the devastation of Battleship Row, and the scores of ruined aircraft caught on the ground. Among the shattered fleet was the battleship ARIZONA, which had sunk after a spectacular magazine explosion ripped her apart.

James Delgado was a member of a National Park Service/US Navy team that spent five years surveying the sunken hulk of USS ARIZONA and the battleship UTAH at Pearl Harbor. He also participated in a search for a sunken Japanese midget submarine in 1,000-foot deep waters off Pearl Harbor's entrance, where alert antisubmarine forces sank it an hour before the main attack commenced. With rare underwater views, and images from "the day of infamy," he recreates the attack and its aftermath, while offering a rare look at the sunken ships. 54 years after the attack, fire hoses still lie across buckled decks, portholes hold air trapped when the battleships sank, and oil leaks from ruptured bunkers. After more than half a century, ARIZONA's wounds still bleed.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE ATOMIC BOMB

In 1946, the United States conducted highly-publicized, but classified tests of the newly developed atomic bomb at Bikini Atoll in the mid-Pacific. A fleet of nearly 100 ships was blasted by nuclear explosions from above and below the sea, sinking or contaminating the ships. Aircraft carriers loaded with planes, battleships, destroyers, cruisers, submarines and landing craft were sent to the bottom, where they lay for decades, too radioactive to handle.

In 1989 and 1990, a joint US Navy/National Park Service team went to Bikini with ABC television and National Geographic to explore the nuclear ghost fleet. James Delgado, the historian with the team, worked at depths of nearly 200 feet with archaeologists and naval explosive ordnance demolition divers, swimming beneath crushed, overturned battleships, penetrating the hanger deck of the carrier SARATOGA to bring back the first underwater images of the sunken fleet in nearly 50 years. Ships lost since 1946 in radioactive silt and the depths of Bikini's lagoon were re-discovered. With many never before seen photographs, including declassified military images from the tests and underwater scenes of the ships today, Delgado recreates the tests and the birth of the nuclear age, while offering new